## Convolutional Neural Networks

Nipun Batra

IIT Gandhinagar

July 30, 2025

## Networks

Convolutional Neural

14 million images, 20K categories



IT'S NOT ABOUT THE ALGORITHM

# The data that transformed Al research—and possibly the world

July 26, 2017

By Dave Gershe



https://gz.com/1034972/the-data-that-changed-the-direction-of-ai-research-and-possibly-the-world/

- Circa 2006, Al community: "a better algorithm would make better decisions, regardless of the data."
- Fei Fei Li thought: "the best algorithm wouldn't work well if the data it learned from didn't reflect the real world"
- "We decided we wanted to do something that was completely historically unprecedented," Li said, referring to a small team who would initially work with her. "We're going to map out the entire world of objects.

- ImageNet: published in 2009 as a research poster stuck in the corner of a
  Miami Beach conference center, the dataset quickly evolved into an annual
  competition to see which algorithms could identify objects in the dataset's
  images with the lowest error rate.
- "The paradigm shift of the ImageNet thinking is that while a lot of people are paying attention to models, let's pay attention to data," Li said. "Data will redefine how we think about models."

#### WordNet



#### WordNet

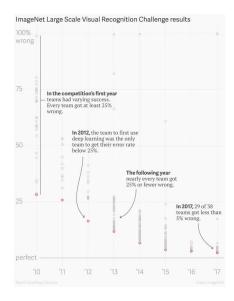
- In the late 1980s, Princeton psychologist George Miller started a project called WordNet, with the aim of building a hierarchical structure for the English language.
- For example, within WordNet, the word "dog" would be nested under "canine," which would be nested under "mammal," and so on. It was a way to organize language that relied on machine-readable logic, and amassed more than 155,000 indexed words.

- Finding the perfect algorithm seemed distant, Li says. She saw that previous datasets didn't capture how variable the world could be—even just identifying pictures of cats is infinitely complex.
- If you only saw five pictures of cats, you'd only have five camera angles, lighting conditions, and maybe variety of cat. But if you've seen 500 pictures of cats, there are many more examples to draw commonalities from.
- Having read about WordNet's approach, Li met with professor Christiane
  Fellbaum, a researcher influential in the continued work on WordNet, during a
  2006 visit to Princeton. Fellbaum had the idea that WordNet could have an
  image associated with each of the words, more as a reference rather than a
  computer vision dataset.

- Li's first idea was to hire undergraduate students for \$10 an hour to manually find images and add them to the dataset. But back-of-the-napkin math quickly made Li realize that at the undergrads' rate of collecting images it would take 90 years to complete.
- Undergrads were time-consuming, algorithms were flawed, and the team
  didn't have money—Li said the project failed to win any of the federal grants
  she applied for, receiving comments on proposals that it was shameful
  Princeton would research this topic, and that the only strength of proposal
  was that Li was a woman.
- A solution finally surfaced in a chance hallway conversation with a graduate student who asked Li whether she had heard of Amazon Mechanical Turk, a service where hordes of humans sitting at computers around the world would complete small online tasks for pennies.

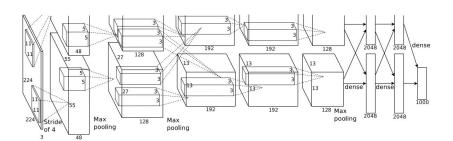


- Even after finding Mechanical Turk, the dataset took two and a half years to complete. It consisted of 3.2 million labelled images, separated into 5,247 categories, sorted into 12 subtrees like "mammal," "vehicle," and "furniture."
- In 2009, Li and her team published the ImageNet paper with the dataset—to
  little fanfare. Li recalls that CVPR, a leading conference in computer vision
  research, only allowed a poster, instead of an oral presentation, and the team
  handed out ImageNet-branded pens to drum up interest. People were
  skeptical of the basic idea that more data would help them develop better
  algorithms.
- "There were comments like 'If you can't even do one object well, why would you do thousands, or tens of thousands of objects?"



#### 14 million images, 20K categories

## History (AlexNet 2012)



## History (LeCun 1998)



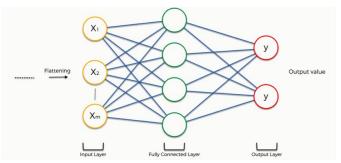
## Modern day cameras



## Modern day cameras



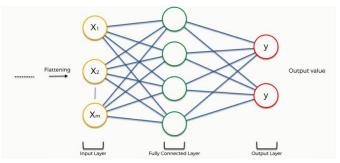
#### Modern day cameras suitability for MLPs?



#### Courtesy:

https://www.superdatascience.com/convolutional-neural-networks-cnn-step-4-full-connection/

#### Modern day cameras suitability for MLPs?

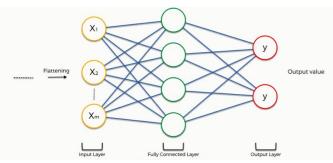


If we are classifying cats vs dogs and hidden layer size is 100, what is number of parameters?

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#### Modern day cameras suitability for MLPs?



#### Courtesy:

https://www.superdatascience.com/convolutional-neural-networks-cnn-step-4-full-connection/

- If we are classifying cats vs dogs and hidden layer size is 100, what is number of parameters?
- N[1] = 100, N[0] = 108\*1M\*3 (for RGB channel) → Billions of params
- Size of weight matrix assuming each param is 32 bytes is 32 bytes\*324 billion → several GBs



Courtesy: https://www.rd.com/advice/pets/commo n-cat-myths/

Are both of the above cats?



Courtesy: https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/lif e/pets/q21525625/why-cats-are-best-p ets/



Courtesy: https://www.rd.com/advice/pets/commo n-cat-myths/



Courtesy: https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/lif e/pets/g21525625/why-cats-are-best-p ets/

Assume both are 100X100 images and bounded rectangle are 10X10 pixels



Courtesy: https://www.rd.com/advice/pets/commo n-cat-myths/



Courtesy: https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/lif e/pets/q21525625/why-cats-are-best-p ets/

A cat ear is a cat ear, irrespective of the location in the image.

MLP would see these are different input features

Rather, we need "feature detector" that is translation invariant.



Courtesy: https://www.rd.com/advice/pets/commo n-cat-myths/

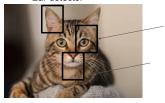
MLPs assume all input features to be independent



#### Courtesy: https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/lif e/pets/q21525625/why-cats-are-best-p ets/

But, we have a spatially local structure, nearby pixels are similar

#### Key Idea Ear detector



Eye detector

Face detector

#### Courtesy:

https://www.rd.com/advice/pets/commo n-cat-myths/

Build local feature detectors



#### Courtesy:

https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/life/pets/g21525625/why-cats-are-best-pets/

(A guide to convolution arithmetic for deep learning)

#### Filter

0	1	2
2	2	0
0	1	2

(A guide to convolution arithmetic for deep learning)

#### Input

30	3,	$2_2$	1	0
02	02		3	1
30	1,	22	2	3
2	0	0	2	2
2	0	0	0	1

#### Output

12.0	12.0	17.0
10.0	17.0	19.0
9.0	6.0	14.0

(A guide to convolution arithmetic for deep learning)

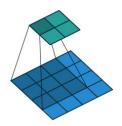
#### Input

3	30	2,	$1_2$	0
0	02	$1_2$	30	1
3	$1_{0}$	2,	$2_2$	3
2	0	0	2	2
2	0	0	0	1

#### Output

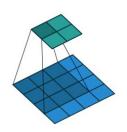


(A guide to convolution arithmetic for deep learning)



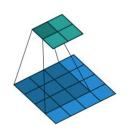
# Notebook demonstration (edge detection)

(A guide to convolution arithmetic for deep learning)



Given input image of n X n and filter of size: f X f, what is the size of the output?

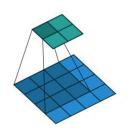
(A guide to convolution arithmetic for deep learning)



Given input image of n X n and filter of size: f X f, what is the size of the output?

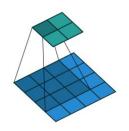
n-f+1 X n-f+1

(A guide to convolution arithmetic for deep learning)



Start with a 32 X 32 image and repeated operations of a single 5 X 5 filter, after how many such operations will we have a 1 X 1 output?

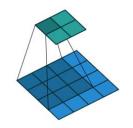
(A guide to convolution arithmetic for deep learning)



Start with a 32 X 32 image and repeated operations of a single 5 X 5 filter, after how many such operations will we have a 1 X 1 output?

Iteration	n	f	n-f+1
1	32	5	28
2	28	5	24
3	24	5	20
4	20	5	16

(A guide to convolution arithmetic for deep learning)



Problem 1: Can not go very deep with repeated convolution as image size reduces quickly

Start with a 32 X 32 image and repeated operations of a single 5 X 5 filter, after how many such operations will we have a 1 X 1 output?

Iteration	n	f	n-f+1
1	32	5	28
2	28	5	24
3	24	5	20
4	20	5	16

(A guide to convolution arithmetic for deep learning)

3	30	2,	12	0
0	02	12	30	1
3	10	2,	22	3
2	0	0	2	2
2	0	0	0	1



How many times is left-most pixel used in a calculation?

## Building Block: Filters and Convolution Operation

(A guide to convolution arithmetic for deep learning)

3	30	$2_{1}$	$1_2$	0
0	$0_2$	$1_2$	30	1
3	$1_{o}$	2,	22	3
2	0	0	2	2
2	0	0	0	1



How many times is left-most pixel used in a calculation?

Only once!

### Building Block: Filters and Convolution Operation

(A guide to convolution arithmetic for deep learning)

3	30	$2_{1}$	12	0
0	$0_2$	$1_2$	30	1
3	$1_{0}$	$2_{_1}$	22	3
2	0	0	2	2
2	0	0	0	1



How many times is left-most pixel used in a calculation?

Only once!

How many times is a middle pixel used in a calculation?

Many times. For example, the middle pixel with value 2 used nine times!

### Building Block: Filters and Convolution Operation

(A guide to convolution arithmetic for deep learning)





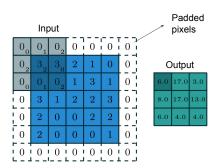
Problem 2: The corner pixels are under-utilised

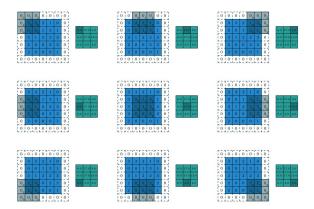
How many times is left-most pixel used in a calculation?

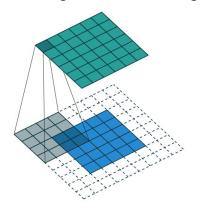
Only once!

How many times is a middle pixel used in a calculation?

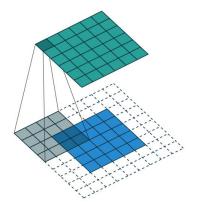
Many times. For example, the middle pixel with value 2 used nine times!





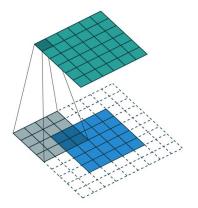


Ques: Given padding of  $\mathbf{p}$  pixel,  $\mathbf{n} \times \mathbf{n}$  image and filter  $\mathbf{f} \times \mathbf{f}$ , what is the output size?



Ques: Given padding of  $\mathbf{p}$  pixel,  $\mathbf{n} \times \mathbf{X} \times \mathbf{n}$  image and filter  $\mathbf{f} \times \mathbf{f}$ , what is the output size?

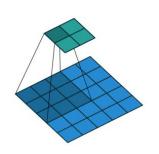
n+2p-f+1 X n+2p-f+1



Ques: Given padding of  $\mathbf{p}$  pixel,  $\mathbf{n} \times \mathbf{n}$  image and filter  $\mathbf{f} \times \mathbf{f}$ , what is the output size?

Same padding: when n+2p-f+1 = n or, p = (f-1)/2

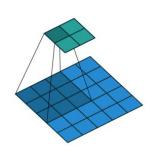
# Building Block: Strides (subsampling)



Skip every **s** pixels

Ques: Given p padding, n x n image, f x f filter, s stride, what is output length?

# Building Block: Strides (subsampling)



Skip every **s** pixels

Ques: Given p padding, n x n image, f x f filter, s stride, what is output length?

 $\lfloor (n+2p-f)/s \rfloor +1 \times \lfloor (n+2p-f)/s \rfloor +1$ 

# Building Block: Pooling (subsampling)

3	3	2	1	0
0	0	1	3	1
3	1	2	2	3
2	0	0	2	2
2	0	0	0	1



#### Max pooling

Similar to filter and convolution operation, but, gives the max value in the f  $\bf x$  f as the output

# Building Block: Pooling (subsampling)

3	3	2	1	0
0	0	1	3	1
3	1	2	2	3
2	0	0	2	2
2	0	0	0	1



#### Max pooling

Similar to filter and convolution operation, but, gives the max value in the f x f as the output

Works well in practice Reduces representation size

# Building Block: Pooling (subsampling)

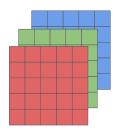
3	3	2	1	0
0	0	1	3	1
3	1	2	2	3
2	0	0	2	2
2	0	0	0	1



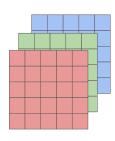
Average pooling

Similar to filter and convolution operation, but, gives the average value in the f x f as the output

Works well in practice Reduces representation size



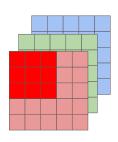
Input: n x n x c image





Input: n x n x c image

Filter for r channel: f x f



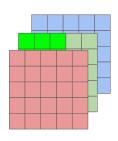




Input: n x n x c image

Filter for r channel: f x f

Output for r channel: n-f+1 x n-f+1



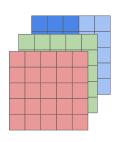




Input: n x n x c image

Filter for g channel: f x f

Output for g channel: n-f+1 x n-f+1



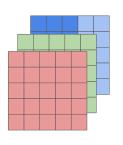




Input: n x n x c image

Filter for b channel: f x f

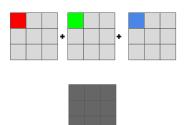
Output for b channel: n-f+1 x n-f+1



Input: n x n x c image

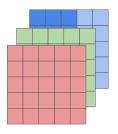


Filter for 3 channel: f x f X 3



Output for 3 channel: n-f+1 x n-f+1 X 1

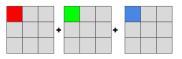
# **Building Block: Non-linearity**







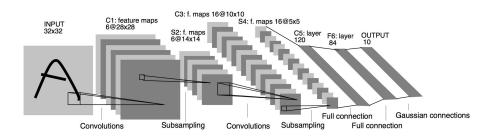
Filter for 3 channel: f x f X 3



Activation Output for 3 channel: n-f+1 x n-f+1 X 1

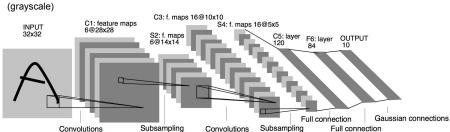


Q1: What is input size?

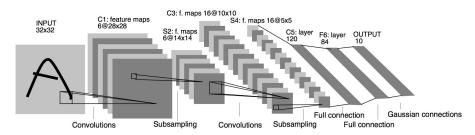


Q1: What is input size?

32X32X1

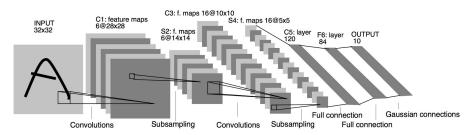


Q2: What is filter size for first layer (assume no padding)



Q2: What is filter size for first layer (assume no padding, 1 stride)

 $5X5: 32 \rightarrow 32 - 5 + 1 = 28$ 

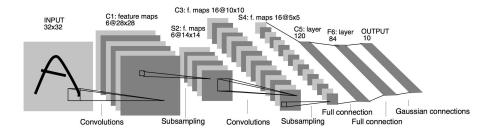


Q3: What is number of filters used in first layer?



Q3: What is number of filters used in first layer?

6

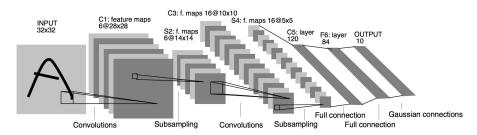


Q4: What is size of pool filter?



Q4: What is size of pool filter?

f=2, s=2 (stride 2)

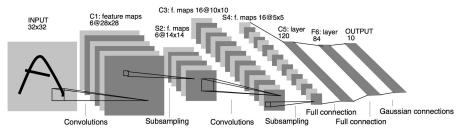


Q5: What is size of filter for this layer convolution?

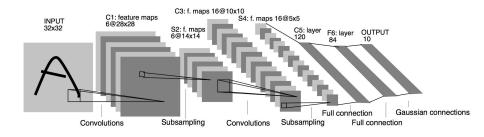


Q5: What is size and number of filter for this layer convolution?

16 filter 5X5 size with stride 1



Q6: What is size of this pool layer?



Q6: What is size of this pool layer?

f=2, s=2

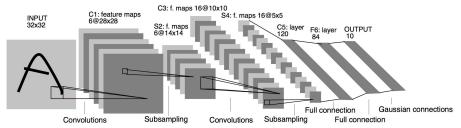


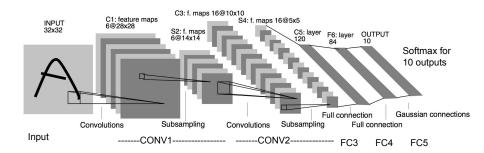
Q7: This layer is connected to an MLP like layer, how?



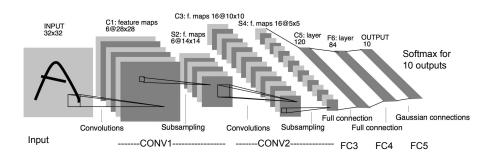
Q7: This layer is connected to an MLP like layer, how?

We flatten 16X5X5 to create a 400X1 matrix



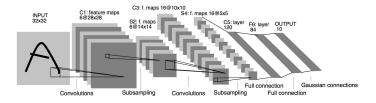


What is the total number of parameters?



#### What is the total number of parameters?

- CONV1: 6 filters of size 5 X5X1(channel) = (6\*5\*5) + 6 biases = 156
- POOL1: No params
   CONV2: 16 filters of size 5 X 5X6(six channels) = (16\*5\*5\*6) + 16 biases = 2416
- FC1: Weight matrix of size 120 X 400 + 120 biases = 48120
- FC2: Weight matrix of size 84 X 120 + 84 biases = 10164
- FC3: Weight matrix of size 10 X 84 + 10 biases = 850
- Total = 61,706



### Notebook: LeNet-5, AlexNet, VGG-16

Notebook

# Training CNNs for own applications

- Train fully from scratch
- Transfer learning -- store activations

## Visualising CNNs

- t-SNE or PCA on last hidden layer ... MNIST
- Same exercise on Imagenet? ..